

SERMON NOTES SERIES

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Divine Detours



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Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

DIVINE DETOURS

Numbers 21:4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

1. Here we see that God is leading the people out of slavery and into a place of freedom.
2. In this instance, the children of Israel knew God had led them to the place they were currently at but they began doubting His guidance.
 - a. Most people think that when God guides you, that it will be an easy ride.
 - b. They never counted on the effort it would take on their part to follow God.

Numbers 21:4 (NLT) ...But the people grew impatient along the way,

3. Because they didn't like the way God was doing things in their life, they grew impatient.
4. Notice what happens when people don't like the way God is operating in their life.

Numbers 21:5 (NLT) and they began to murmur against God and Moses.

"Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" they complained. "There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this wretched manna!"

5. Usually people will blame others for what they actually want to blame God for, but don't realize it or won't admit it to themselves.
 - a. Most people would not openly blame God, so they directed their frustrations towards those around them.
 - b. In this case, it was towards their Pastor, Moses who had given them all these wonderful promises that if they would just listen and follow Him, they would one day soon live in a land flowing with milk and honey.
6. Notice that their complaints were directed over the inconveniences that they faced during the journey.
 - a. They knew God was the One who set them on this path.
 - b. They experienced His miraculous delivery from Pharaoh.
 - c. They witnessed it with their own eyes.

7. They were happy to leave, but when the reality of the journey began that would take them to the place flowing with milk and honey, what they thought and what God was doing were two different things.
 - a. "Wait a minute, I thought God was going to take us to the place of abundance..."
 - b. "Well, the prophets said that all would be well and that I'll be prosperous..."
 - c. "It certainly doesn't look like it, look around..."
8. They followed Moses through the Red Sea, but griped the entire way.
 - a. They would praise God each time He blessed them and things were going good but as soon as something negative happened, they were ready to stop following Him.
 - b. Questions would usher in doubts.
 - c. Doubts lead to complaints.
 - d. Complaints brought confusion.
 - e. Confusion had to find a scapegoat...I know, let's blame Moses, my wife, heck, let's point the finger at Pastor John, maybe the rumors were true.

Numbers 21:4-5 (MSG) [4] They set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. [5] They spoke out against God and Moses: "Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken country? No decent food; no water—we can't stomach this stuff any longer."

9. He's supposed to be God, didn't He know there was a detour ahead?
 - a. "I don't have all this time, I'm not getting any younger..."
10. And yet we never think that God is the One who is leading us to the detours of our lives.
11. You're probably thinking:
 - a. "I would never be like those wishy washy children of Israel..."
 - b. "Why, I would never doubt God so many times like they did along on the way to the Promised Land..."
12. Let's test ourselves:

- a. On Monday, we're following Jesus with all our heart.
- b. On Tuesday, things got tough and didn't go the way we planned, so now we're doubting His promises to us and are hoping for the rapture.
 1. We lost our cool.
 2. The check didn't come in the mail.
 3. They told me I wasn't hired.
 4. She filed for divorce anyway.
 5. The doctor said it didn't look good.
 6. An unexpected bill came.
- c. On Wednesday, we're asking God to forgive us for doubting His faithfulness because we went to church that night and felt foolish with our childish attitude.
- d. On Thursday, we're promising to follow Him for the rest of our lives and that lasted all the way to Friday, when another problem popped up.
- e. This is the average life of a believer today.

Numbers 21:6 (NLT) So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among them, and many of them were bitten and died.

13. Their complaining and murmuring opened the door for the enemy to come in and it brought death to their vision of a new life in a land flowing with milk and honey.
- They were cut short and missed God's plan for their life.
 - Their mouth and their attitude became a serpent magnet.
 - Why?

1 Corinthians 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

14. The New Testament tells us why God sent these serpents. They tempted Christ.

Tempt - Gk - *ekpeirazo* - to test thoroughly; to test and establish the quality, performance, or reliability of something; to test the strength or quality of someone or something.

- Meaning, you are calling God a liar because what He said and what you are facing doesn't match up to your test.

1 Corinthians 10:9 (NLT) Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites.

15. How does a person "tempt" Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

16. By murmuring.
- Murmur means to complain under one's breath or in one's mind.
17. We are told that the Old Testament serves as an example to us living in the New Testament. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever and He changes not, don't kid yourself into thinking that this cannot happen to believers today because we have grace and mercy.
- The punishments inflicted upon Israel will be inflicted upon church folks if they backslide or sin or if they follow Israel's example.

1 Corinthians 10:10 (NLT) And don't grumble as some of them did, for that is why God sent his angel of death to destroy them.

- 18. See, when one complains, the joy of the journey, the satisfaction of knowing that one is going to a better standard of living doesn't seem to be enough, so they gripe about God's leading.
- 19. When you fuss, cuss and complain, He leads you to a detour before the snakes are released.
- 20. What you do at the detour, while nothing seems to be going your way and everything looks contrary to the promises and the prophecies determines what happens next in your life.
- 21. See, detours are divine moments of grace and mercy that God gives us to check ourselves before we wreck ourselves.
 - a. Allow me to expound a little further.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (MSG) [1] Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. [2] They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. [3] They all ate [4] and drank identical food and

drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ.

- 22. Israel experienced many supernatural moves of God as He was leading them to their place of promise.

1 Corinthians 10:5 (MSG) But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.

- 23. When things became difficult, they chose the temptation to murmur, gripe, fuss, cuss and complain.
 - a. What they tried to get others to believe about them and what they really were didn't match up.
 - b. A detour, hard times, revealed their true selves.

24. See, some people only want God for the blessings and the benefits, other want God because He is everything to them whether there would ever be another blessing manifest or not.

1 Corinthians 10:6-8 (MSG) [6] **The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. [7] And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." [8] We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with twenty-three thousand deaths in one day!**

25. Why did they hit a detour? Because they got caught up in wanting things their own way.

1 Corinthians 10:9-10 (MSG) [9] **We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of**

poisonous snakes. [10] We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them.

26. So the question is, "**who is serving who?**" We can say with a smile that we are serving God, but the answer is found inside by looking at our attitude.

Discontent - means that you are not happy or at peace with your present situation because you want something more or better.

27. So when we don't have the "more or the better" we endeavor to get Jesus to serve us.

28. So instead of praying with faith in our heart, we make demands out of a discontented heart and get even more angry when Jesus doesn't jump through our hoops.

29. So we remind Him of our works:

- a. I have given when You told me to give.
- b. I have done what You wanted me to do.
- c. I have laid down my life to follow You and this is what I get in return.
- d. I did this, I did that and therefore You should do according to my doings.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 (MSG) [11] These are all w a r n i n g markers—danger! —in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. [12] Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

30. Here is why people hit roadblocks and detours. They stop cultivating God - confidence.

John 15:4 (NLT) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me.

31. Some people no longer remain in, they just kinda pop in when it's convenient to them.

John 15:7 (NLT) But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!

32. To stay joined means you:
- a. Come to church whether you feel like it or not.
 - b. You read your Bible whether you feel like it or not.
 - c. You get involved whether you feel like it or not.
 - d. You give whether you feel like it or not.
 - e. You worship whether you feel like it or not.
 - f. You pray whether you feel like it or not.
 - g. You continue to believe God whether you feel like it or not.

33. When the questions and the doubts become stronger than the promise of His Word, then the Word is no longer remaining in you.

a. Satan has become the more influential and dominant voice in your life.

34. So we sit idle at a detour, nothing is happening, nothing is going our way and matters are getting worse. Now what?

1 Corinthians 10:13 (MSG) No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

35. When you are sitting at that detour, before the snakes are released, remind yourself **that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.**

36. God said He would help. We want God to just do it for us.

37. Here's what I learned.

1 Corinthians 10:14-15 (MSG) [14] So, my very dear friends, when you see people

reducing God to something they can use or control, get out of their company as fast as you can. [15] I assume I'm addressing believers now who are mature. Draw your own conclusions:

38. I have learned that sometimes you just need to get out of the way of those kind of people until they are tired of fussing, cussing and complaining. Until they realize they are not going to get Jesus to jump through their hoops.

39. "But wait a minute, you're my Pastor." If you won't listen to the Holy Ghost inside you, you certainly won't listen to me. You will interpret my intervention as a criticism and like the children of Israel, you'll murmur against me.

a. I don't want my picture to be on your snake magnet.

40. So how do we get back on track and leave the snakes behind?

Philippians 4:11

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

41. Paul is talking about the ever changing circumstances of life.

Philippians 4:11 (MSG) Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances.

42. Paul said, "It's all about your attitude along the way."

43. See, all of us will face challenging circumstances in life, but God promised to bring us through every time.

44. The children of Israel needed someone to blame, so they blamed Moses. Just because the majority opinion concerning leadership is negative doesn't mean the majority is right.

45. Our trust must be in the unchanging promises of God, not the ever changing circumstances in our lives.

46. Moses, Aaron, and Joshua understood this because they put their trust in God.

a. But who always got blamed? The very ones who decided to trust God in the midst of the circumstances not because of the circumstances.

47. God, through His Word, makes things right.

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 3:4 (NLT) Of course not! Though everyone else in the world is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say, "He will be proved right in what he says, and he will win his case in court."

48. Even if you have a multitude of people coming against you, if you have the truth of God's Word to stand on, you are right and the multitude is wrong.

Romans 3:4 (MSG) Not on your life! Depend on it: God keeps his word even when the whole world is lying through its teeth. Scripture says the same: Your words stand fast and true; Rejection doesn't faze you.

49. Who's serving who?

50. The divine detour in your life is your dream / vision on pause so that you can remind yourself **that God will never let you down; He'll never let you be pushed past your limit; He'll always be there to help you come through it.**